

Invasive Species Alert

European Water-clover

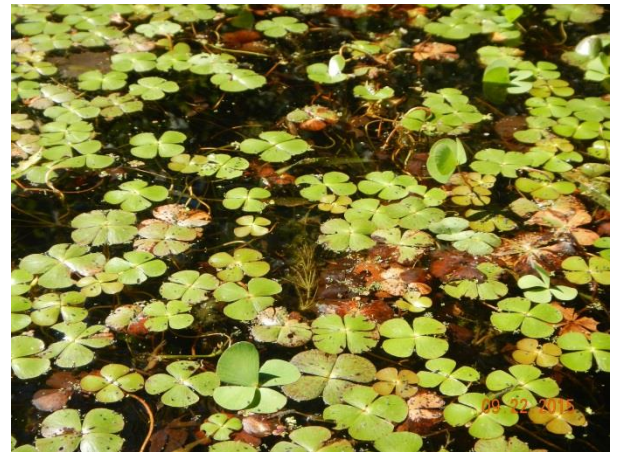
(*Marsilea quadrifolia*)

Detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Resembles a four leaf clover
- Leaves are smooth and can be floating, submerged, or emergent
- Maximum height: 8 inches
- Thin green stalks bear a single leaf

Habitat: This aquatic fern anchors into sediment in shallow, slow-moving waters. Preference is given to sandy and loamy soil environments with semi-shade to full sun.



Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Native Range: Europe and Asia

U.S. Distribution: Reported in Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Missouri with widespread occurrences in the northeastern states.

Local Concern: European water-clover has the ability to form dense, monospecific stands by outcompeting native aquatic species. Its ability to adjust the angle of floating leaflets to optimize



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sunlight gives it even more of a competitive edge over native species.

Other Common Names: Four-leaf clover, pepperwort, water shamrock

This species is currently allowable for sale and possession in Michigan. If these plants are observed outside of cultivation, please report to:

Kile Kucher, MDNR, at

kucherk@michigan.gov or 517-

243-4077 or at

www.misin.msu.edu or download

the MISIN app to your smartphone